

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01653 022206Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06
DODE-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /117 W
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O R 022115Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 346

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

/US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 217

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 289

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1653

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS TECH, ENGR PARM BR GW OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

SUBJECT: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BRAZIL: PRESS REACTION

1. SUMMARY. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS JUDGES THAT THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH THE BOG REACHED AN IMPASSE, WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 01653 022206Z

EACH SIDE EXPRESSING ITS OWN VIEWS. ANY GOB PUBLIC SIGNALS OF
REACTION TO THE MEETINGS MIGHT NOT SURFACE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON MARCH 1, HOWEVER, MIGHT HASTEN
AND STRENGTHEN ANY OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO US NUCLEAR POLICY
INITIATIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE. THE TWO PARTIES EXCHANGED VIEWS ON

NUCLEAR SUBJECTS AND ENERGY NEEDS. EACH SIDE WILL CONSIDER THE POSITIONS EXPRESSED BY THE OTHER. THERE WILL BE FURTHER TALKS ON THESE MATTERS. END TEXT".

3. ALL THREE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, JORNAL DO BRAZIL, AND GAZETA MERCANTIL) INTERPRETED THE COMMUNIQUE, COMBINED WITH OTHER INDICATIONS, AS IMPLYING AN IMPASSE. JORNAL'S INTERPRETATION WAS: "(1) THERE WAS NO PROGRESS IN THE CONCILIATION OF BRAZILIAN AND AMERICAN POINTS OF VIEW.

(2) THE BRAZILIAN NEGOTIATIONS HAD OPPOSED THE AMERICAN ALLEGATION OF THE RISKS OF ACCESS TO ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, AND (COMMENT: HAD STRESSED) THE URGENT NECESSITY OF FINDING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY; AND (3) THE DOOR TO NEW EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WAS NOT CLOSED AND CONVERSATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE." GAZETA COMMENTED THAT "EVERYTHING INDICATES" THAT THE TWO PARTIES MAINTAINED THEIR INITIAL FIRM POSITIONS. MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A "POINT OF EQUILIBRIUM." O ESTADO SAW THE MEETINGS AS ONLY "EXPLORATORY, PERMITTING THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS DEFINITELY THEIR POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM."

REGARDING THE COMMUNIQUE, O ESTADO COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: "IN THE OPINION OF SPECIALISTS, THE LACONIC COMMUNIQUE HAS THREE KEY WORDS: VIEWS, POSITIONS, AND CONVERSATIONS. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS INDICATES THAT THE MEETING WAS NOT CONCLUSIVE, THAT THE INTERLOCUTORS ONLY WERE SOUNDING OUT THE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES FOR FORWARD AND BACKWARD MOVES IN THE POSITIONS OF EACH OTHER. THE AFFIRMATION THAT EACH PARTY WILL "CONSIDER" THE POSITION OF THE OTHER SIGNIFIES THAT BOTH POSITIONS, AS IS WELL KNOWN, WERE REITERATED CLEARLY IN THE MEETING. BUT THE WORD 'CONVERSATIONS' IS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 01653 022206Z

THE ONE THAT DESCRIBES EXACTLY THE LEVEL OF THE MEETING."

4. FONMIN SILVEIRA, WHO TALKED WITH REPORTERS AT THE CONGRESS IN BETWEEN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON MEETINGS WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, GAVE AN OPTIMISTIC RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ON HOW THE MEETINGS WERE GOING: LAUGHING, ACCORDING TO GAZETA, SILVEIRA SAID "EVERYTHING IS GOING VERY WELL. EXCELLENT." ASKED ABOUT US PRESSURES, SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY RESPONDED GOOD-HUMOREDLY: "I THINK I AM INSENSITIVE TO THEM." ASKED ABOUT THE "NEGOTIATIONS," SILVEIRA RESPONDED: "THEY ARE NOT NEGOTIATIONS, ONLY CONVERSATIONS," ACCORDING TO O ESTADO. REPORTERS ASKED ABOUT THE "PACT OF SILENCE" (COMMENT: A REFERENCE TO THE PRESS'S INTERPRETATION OF THE PUBLIC SILENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE US DELEGATION, AND THE EMBASSY ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTIONS) SILVEIRA GAVE AS THE REASON: "THE AMERICANS ASKED THAT WE NOT MAKE ANY COMMENT AND WE AGREED."

5. AN OPPOSITION LEADER, SENATOR SATURNINO BRAGA, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO (MARCH 2), EXPRESSED AGAIN THE OPPOSITION'S SUPPORT

FOR THE GOVERNMENT ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE: "REPEATEDLY, THROUGH DECLARATIONS AND PRONOUNCEMENTS,(THE OPPOSITION PARTY HAS GIVEN) ALL ITS SUPPORT TO THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT."

6. THE PRESS REPORTED STRAIGHT THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 REMARKS IN CONGRESS THAT THE US WILL ADOPT "REWARDS AND SANCTIONS" (JORNAL DO BRASIL) IN SUPPORT OF US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.

7. COMMENT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING IN TODAY'S PRESS CAN BE READ AS CONVEYING A SIGNAL OF IMMEDIATE SPECIAL INTEREST TO US. IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL DAYS FOR ANY GOB REACTIONS TO THE MEETINGS TO SURFACE, OFFICIALLY OR IN THE MORE PREVALENT BACKGROUNDEES. IF EDITORIALS ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION IN MAJOR PAPERS APPEAR AS INFREQUENTLY OVER THE NEXT WEEK AS THEY HAVE APPEARED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE HAND OF GOVERNMENTAL GUIDANCE IS LIKELY TO BE THE REASON. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT FIND SOME EDITORIALS SUPPORTIVE OF BRAZIL'S VIEWS TO BE USEFUL IN THE WEEKS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BRASIL 01653 022206Z

AHEAD.

8. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE ABSOLUTE SILENCE OF USG SOURCES HERE DURING AND BEFORE THE VISIT PROBABLY WILL ATTENUATE ANY WAVE OF PRESS AND OFFICIAL INDIGNATION OVER US NUCLEAR POLICY INITIATIVES. OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS WE HAVE HAD FOUR DISTINCT WAVES, EACH FOLLOWING A US PRONOUNCEMENT OR OTHER EXPRESSION OF VIEWS. THE RECENT SILENCE HAS HELPED GIVE THE PRESS LESS UPON WHICH TO FIX ITS SIGHTS--AND POSSIBLY LESS AGAINST WHICH THE GOB HAS PERCEIVED IT HAS HAD TO REACT PUBLICLY. THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, MAY HASTEN AND STRENGTHEN ANY OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTIONS TO US NUCLEAR POLICY INITIATIVES.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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